

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY AND ADVISORY GROUPS POLICY

Philosophy Statement

A "Friends of the Library" or "library advisory board" organization constitutes an important community resource for public libraries. It draws from the community and can increase understanding of, and support for, the library within that community. As in any volunteer organization, members are provided with an opportunity to use their time, skills, resources and contacts in a worthwhile community endeavor, while receiving recognition for their efforts.

Friends and Advisory groups generally work outside of the library setting, making library strengths and needs known to the public and governing or funding authorities; for example, Library Board of Trustees, Board of Supervisors. Friends may raise money through book sales, sponsorship of special events or other means at the discretion of the Library Board and staff. The role of the Friends and Advisors is a support group, rather than a policy-making body. Suggestions for service improvements may be directed to the local branch manager.

Standards

1. There should be a written statement of purpose and by-laws on file which should be in accordance with the Policies of the Library Board of Trustees.
2. Funds raised by Library support groups shall not be a substitute for adequate local funding.
3. Funds raised by Library support groups shall be maintained in an account separate and distinct from the library's operating accounts. Such accounts shall be administrated by the appropriate support group.
4. Gifts made to the library by the Friends, by Advisory Boards, or by the Foundation shall conform to library gift and fiscal policies, and shall not be used to dictate library policy.

Adopted 3/87
Revised 2/26/96; 2/21/07
Reaffirmed 1/19/11